

SAFC-10766  
Copy 5 of 6.

13 November 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR : Hqs USAF, AFMIL-5  
ATTENTION : Lt. Col. Leo P. Geary  
SUBJECT : U-2 Aircraft for ARDC

1. The location of the three U-2 aircraft which are to be delivered to ARDC approximately 25 February, 30 July, and 8 November 1957, has been raised many times by ARDC representatives in conference with personnel of this Project. ARDC has requested their three U-2's be delivered to Edwards Air Force Base where their U-2 test program will be conducted.

2. It is the purpose of this memorandum to reaffirm this Project's decision to disapprove basing and testing the three ARDC U-2 aircraft at Edwards Air Force Base. This stand is taken solely to maintain the presently effective security of the U-2's unusual performance. Its rate of climb and true performance at altitude are characteristics still unknown to other than properly cleared, project-witting personnel. It is common knowledge that Edwards Air Force Base is the focal point of the industry's best technical representatives and technicians, and it is believed that by operating the U-2 from Edwards we are unnecessarily risking the future operational security of this Project. However, we offer ARDC the use of [redacted] and its facilities for their U-2 operation.

3. [redacted] is presently occupied by our Detachment C and some trainees of the Air Force for their U-2 program. Detachment C is tentatively scheduled to deploy from [redacted] about 15 January 1957. The base will remain on active status to support any U-2 activity until [redacted]. We understand this will be after 1 May 1957. Any testing of equipment remaining to be completed after 1 May will be carried on at the USAF U-2 program's permanent base.

4. Appropriate security clearance will be required of all ARDC personnel engaged in the U-2 program who are to be made aware of this Project or who will have access to [redacted]. This is no different from requirements imposed on the USAF FOC program. Ample time is yet available to clear sufficient ARDC

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personnel to conduct testing [ ] Our Project stands ready to discuss with you details of your project's integration into [ ] and assist you in every way possible.

J. A. GIBBS  
Col., USAF  
Deputy Project Director

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- 2 - Security
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